Approved For Release 2001/08/13 : CIA-RDP78B04747A001400010021-3

CONFIDENTIAL

NPIC/D-100-67
5 May 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Request for Approval of the Color Film/Print Dryer Study with [redacted] from FY 1967 Funding

1. The Color Film/Print Dryer Study is an 8-month effort to investigate advanced techniques for drying photographic color prints and color sheet film. This study will provide an advanced technological base for the specific design and construction of efficient color drying equipment not now in existence, and it will also fulfill the requirements for improving the drying of black and white photography.

2. A vital point about this project is that it will increase the Center's preparedness to carry out development which will be absolutely essential if a decision is made to increase the use of color reconnaissance photography. Such a decision is, at the very least, a distinct possibility. We are therefore obligated to keep the gap between collection and exploitation capabilities narrow enough so that we will be able to bridge it with reasonable speed and economy should the need arise. The present gap is so wide that those charged with acquisition could hopelessly inundate our color drying facilities. However, this project is made more attractive because, aside from its important function as a step of preparedness, it can be justified on the basis of its potential contribution to Center efficiency.

25X1A

3. With the uneven development typical of technological advance in any field, color photography processing machines have far outdistanced the capacity of devices for drying the processed prints and film. The problem arises because of the thickness and softness of color emulsion, which necessitates extra care in handling. This extra care means that the drying process is carried out more slowly for color than for black-and-white materials to avoid damaging the emulsion and to minimize such effects as peeling of the emulsion from its base. Great caution must also be exercised to avoid fading, color shifts, and mottling due to the great sensitivity of color emulsions. There is no equipment specifically designed for drying color prints or film; all presently available color drying techniques for prints are based on methods used for black-and-white materials, which are slowed and manipulated more carefully to compensate for the extra delicacy of the

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color emulsions; no equipment is used for drying color film sheets, they are merely hung up to dry. This study will evaluate new concepts such as vacuum and microwave drying and seek to devise new techniques as yet unknown. After five months, the possible solutions will be weighed; if some show promise, they will be converted into breadboard equipment for feasibility tests. The final step will be the development of possible designs for practical drying equipment. Thus, the project has two go, no-go milestones.

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4. The [redacted] was chosen from among five bidders for this project, on the basis of a quality proposal which showed thorough comprehension of the requirement, and its reputation and experience in the field. The project has been coordinated with DD&T/ORD, and a narrative description of the proposed work has been distributed to members of the Committee on Photographic Exploitation Equipment (COPE). The Production Services Division has confirmed the requirement for this study.

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5. It is recommended that approval be granted to contract with [redacted] of FY-1967 funds to carry out a Color Film/Print Dryer Study.

ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL
Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

Attachments:
1. Catalog Form
2. Development Objective - Color Sheet Film Dryer
3. Development Objective - Color Print Dryer
4. Schedule of Tasks
5. Proposal

APPROVED: _____ _____
R. J. SMITH Date
Deputy Director for Intelligence

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]

We cannot proceed with this now in FY67, and we have no foundation for placing the project in our FY68 program!

BR

STATINTL

[redacted] Retain

ILLEGIB

[redacted] 68 17 May (DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED. (47)

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